NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Block Island School
February 6, 2012
7:00 P.M.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, February 6, 2012, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Elizabeth Connor, Ann Hall, Sean McGarry, and William Padien. Patricia Doyle was not in attendance. Robert Hicks was also present.

2012-2013 Budget Work Session
At the previous meeting Mr. Hicks was asked to cost out an increase in custodial staff from 2.5 to three full-time people. If the current part-time custodian were increased to full-time the amount needed in the budget would be $19,199. If another part-time custodian were added the cost would be $23,482. However, Mr. Hicks is not convinced that the custodial staff has been maximized and, before he recommends increasing the staff, everything possible should be done to make sure the custodians have the correct assignments for the hours they are working throughout the day.

Mr. Hicks reviewed the utility budget and increased the heating fuel line item by $18,000 to $76,000. While the usage is down, the cost of fuel is rising.

Since the School Committee's last meeting Governor Chafee unveiled his budget proposal, which includes an increase in state aid. This translates into a $10,253 increase over the original projection. Mr. Hicks learned that the special education high cost program will be implemented over ten years. Originally he thought this program could save us $50,000 when the actual amount for 2012-13 would be closer to $2,658.

Various line items were reviewed in hopes of being able to decrease the budget. Mr. Hicks has not heard from The Trust regarding health care costs, but has increased the budgeted amount by five percent and hopes this will cover it. Liability insurance has increased considerably because of the damage caused by the flood and snow storms last year. The budget increase to the town for the 2012-2013 fiscal year is now at $107,083 (less than last year's request) or 2.47 percent.

Math Support
Mr. Hicks gave two reasons for his recommendation to include funding for math support in next year's budget. The first is that the new mathematics curriculum, currently being developed based on the Common Core State Standards, has some very significant changes from the existing state standards; it is narrower and more rigorous. This change will require new lessons, revised materials, coordination from grade to grade, and new assessments. It has been emphasized by the Dana Center that these things will not occur without a tremendous amount of support. The second is that any organization must invest in leadership development to be successful. School districts across the state are investing in leadership development by supporting programs such as the Principal Residency Network (PRN). Mr. Hicks stated you must be flexible to be efficient and effective, especially on Block Island where travel and housing difficulties combine to make

staffing challenging. He feels that multiple needs can be met by piecing together the talent and circumstances available to you. As an example, Karen Kurzman is not only serving as a co-principal, but was also hired to provide professional development to our teachers in writing and English Language Arts. It is hoped that multiple needs of the district can be met with the participation in the PRN and providing support during the implementation of the CCSS math curriculum.

Executive Session
A motion (Padien, Hall) at 7:59 p.m. to go into executive session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4, 5(a)(2) for contract negotiations carried with a vote of 4-0.

Open Session
A motion (Padien, Hall) at 8:15 p.m. to return to open session carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to seal the minutes of the executive session carried with a vote of 4-0.

Adjournment
A motion (Padien, Hall) at 8:16 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 4-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: March 19, 2012